

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 042545

55

ORIGIN ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-02 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT

APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MWEISSMAN

----- 117636

O 242232Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042545

FOL RPT STATE 042545 TOSEC 040172 ACTION USDEL SECRETARY

INFO GUATEMALA SAN JOSE 21 FEB.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042545 TOSEC 040172

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM RYAN

A. YOUR MEETING WITH GUATEMALAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA,
COSTA RICA, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 11:30 A.M.

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S. - SECRETARY KISSINGER; MR. ROGERS
GUATEMALA - FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES
(MO-LEE-NAH)

B. YOUR MEETING WITH GUATEMALAN PRESIDENT LAUGERUD, G
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 042545

GUATEMALA CITY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 5:30 P.M.

PARTICIPANTS:

U.S. - SECRETARY KISSINGER; MR. ROGERS; AMB MELOY
GUATEMALA - PRESIDENT KJELL LAUGERUD GARCIA (LAU-GEH-ROOD)
FOREIGN MINISTER ADOLFO MOLINA ORANTES

CHECKLIST:

-- EARTHQUAKE: EXPRESS YOUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR THE
TRAGIC SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA.

-- U.S. ASSISTANCE: WE HAVE PROVIDED EXTENSIVE EMERGENCY
ASSISTANCE AND WILL BE FOLLOWING THROUGH TO AID IN THE
RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. PRESIDENT FORD HAS ASKED CONGRESS
FOR DOLS 25 MILLION IN RELIEF AND REHABILITATION FUNDS FOR
GUATEMALA.

-- GOG PERFORMANCE: THE GOG HAS DONE AN EFFECTIVE JOB IN
ORGANIZING AND PROVIDING RELIEF FOR THE HUNGRY AND
INJURED AND DESERVES PRAISE FOR ITS EFFORTS.

-- BELIZE: YOU HOPE THAT THE SOON-TO-BE-RESUMED
NEGOTIATIONS WILL LEAD TO A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO
ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

SETTING:

GUATEMALA HAS JUST SUFFERED THE MOST POWERFUL AND
WIDESPREAD SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES EVER RECORDED IN CENTRAL
AMERICA. BEGINNING AT 3:00 A.M., FEBRUARY 4, THERE HAVE
BEEN SEVERAL MAJOR QUAKEs AND MORE THAN 600 AFTER-SHOCKS.
INJURY AND LOSS OF LIFE HAVE BEEN STAGGERING. MORE
THAN 23,000 DEAD; 76,000 INJURED AND 1.1 MILLION
HOMELESS, OUT OF A TOTAL POPULATION OF 5.6 MILLION.
THE HEAVILY POPULATED AND ALMOST ENTIRELY INDIAN-INHABITED
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS SECTOR WAS COMPLETELY DEVASTATED.
THE CAPITAL CITY WAS ALSO HEAVILY DAMAGED, WITH THE MOST
EXTENSIVE DESTRUCTION OCCURRING IN THE POORER AREAS OF
TOWN. THE MAIN FACETS OF OUR RELIEF ASSISTANCE, WHICH,
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 042545

AT THE GOG'S REQUEST, HAVE BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE HIGH-
LANDS AREA, WERE A FULLY EQUIPPED AND STAFFED 100-BED U.S.
MILITARY HOSPITAL (NOW WITHDRAWN) AND A FLEET OF SIXTEEN
LARGE HELICOPTERS FOR FERRYING RELIEF SUPPLIES UP INTO
THE REMOTE AREAS AND BRINGING THE INJURED DOWN TO
THE FIELD HOSPITAL. IN ADDITION, A DETACHMENT OF U.S.
ARMY ENGINEERS IS NOW WORKING TO REOPEN THE VITAL
CARIBBEAN HIGHWAY. WE WILL BE PROVIDING ADDITIONAL
EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR RECONSTRUCTING THE HOMES OF THE
RURAL POOR THAT WERE DESTROYED IN THE EARTHQUAKE.

WE INTEND TO FOLLOW OUR RELIEF EFFORT WITH ADDITIONAL
ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION ON FEBRUARY 19,

PRESIDENT FORD ASKED CONGRESS TO PROVIDE DOLS 25 MILLION FOR THE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION EFFORT. AMBASSADOR MELOY RECOMMENDS WE CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS IN THE

RURAL AREAS, LEAVING THE CITIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES. THE GOG AGREES.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

GUATEMALA IS THE LARGEST AND STRONGEST OF THE FIVE CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. UNTIL THE QUAKE STRUCK, THEY HAD BEEN DOING VERY WELL ECONOMICALLY, BUT NO ONE KNOWS HOW LONG IT WILL TAKE TO RECOVER. IT IS BASICALLY AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY, BUT IN MANY HIGHLAND AREAS, WHERE CONSIDERABLE FARMING IS DONE, NOT A SINGLE BUILDING IS STILL STANDING. THE WRENCHING, TEARING POWER OF THE QUAKE WAS SO VIOLENT AS TO ACTUALLY ALTER THE TOPOLOGICAL LAYOUT OF THE LAND IN SOME PLACES. IN ADDITION, WATER FLOW HAS BEEN DISRUPTED. THE INDIAN FARMERS ARE TOUGH, STOIC PEOPLE, HOWEVER, AND WILL BE BACK IN THEIR FIELDS AS SOON AS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

THE GOG HAS DONE AN EFFECTIVE JOB IN RESPONDING TO THE EMERGENCY. THLRE WAS CONSIDERABLE CONFUSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FIRST QUAKE, BUT THE GOG HAS PRETTY WELL SORTED ITSELF OUT AND IS DOING A CAPABLE JOB IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER AND PROVIDING RELIEF UNDER THE MOST DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES IMAGINABLE, WITH CONSIDERABLE U.S. AND CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 042545

OTHER ASSISTANCE.

COURTESY POINT:

--I WAS SADDENED TO HEAR OF THE DEATH OF YOUR FATHER. THIS PERSONAL TRAGEDY IS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT TO BEAR, COMING, AS IT DID, IN THE WAKE OF THE TERRIBLE DEVASTATION SUFFERED BY YOUR COUNTRY. (MOLINA'S FATHER DIED ON FEBRUARY 13. YOU SENT A CONDOLENCE MESSAGE, TAB 3.)

U.S. ASSISTANCE - DISASTER RELIEF:

WITHIN HOURS AFTER THE FIRST QUAKE, AID'S FORLIGN DISASTER RELIEF CENTER WAS IN OPERATION. AS SOON AS THE GOG ASKED FOR OUR ASSISTANCE, WE BEGAN TO MOVE IN SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL. FIRST TO GO WAS A U.S. MILITARY DISASTER ASSISTANCE SURVEY TEAM (DAST) FROM PANAMA. WE PROVIDED A FULLY-EQUIPPED AND STAFFED 100-BED U.S. MILITARY FIELD HOSPITAL THAT SET UP OPERATIONS IN THE CENTER OF THE HARDEST HIT AREA; A U.S. ENGINEERING SURVEY TEAM TO ASSESS DAMAGE TO ROADS, BRIDGES, AND RAILROADS; SIXTEEN LARGE HELICOPTERS; AND A CONSIDERABLE

AMOUNT OF TENTS, MEDICAL SUPPLIES, FIELD KITCHENS, GENERATORS, ETC., FROM AID'S DISASTER RELIEF STOCKPILE IN PANAMA. A DETACHMENT OF U.S. ARMY ENGINEERS TO REOPEN THE CARIBBEAN HIGHWAY AND A LARGE GRANT FOR RECONSTRUCTING DAMAGED HOUSING HAS BEEN PROVIDED OUT OF EMERGENCY RELIEF FUNDS. WE ALSO GAVE A DOLS 100,000 GRANT TO THE OAS FUND TRANSPORTATION FOR FOUR PACKAGE DISASTER HOSPITAL (PDH'S) DONATED BY ALABAMA AND SOUTH CAROLINA. WE ARE FUNDING THE TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR A VARIETY OF RELIEF SHIPMENTS BY VOLUNTEER AGENCIES. TO DATE, WE HAVE ALLOCATED DOLS 7.7 MILLION TO THIS EFFORT. AN ADDITIONAL DOLS 2.5 MILLION IS AVAILABLE FOR EMERGENCY SHELTER NEEDS.

PRESIDENT FORD SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD EXPRESSING HIS SYMPATHY (TAB 1). YOU SENT A SIMILAR LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA (TAB 2).

TALKING POINT:
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 042545

-- THIS IS A MOST TERRIBLE TRAGEDY. YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE HAVE RESPONDED MAGNIFICENTLY. WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN OF ASSISTANCE AND WILL CONTINUE TO HELP WHEREVER WE CAN.

OTHER DONORS:

MOST OF THE NATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND EUROPE HAVE CONTRIBUTED ASSISTANCE. MEXICO HAS TRUCKED IN A LARGE QUANTITY OF FOOD AND HAS BEEN PROVIDING HOT MEALS TO THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE. VENEZUELA AND WEST GERMANY HAVE PROVIDED LARGE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE. ISRAEL HAS DONATED SUPPLIES. BRITAIN TRIED TO, BUT THE OFFER, WHILE NEVER EXACTLY REFUSED, WAS TURNED ASIDE. THE GOG FORESTALLED A CUBAN OFFER BY SAYING IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTED. NO OTHER COMMUNIST NATION HAS SINCE OFFERED.

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES -- SUCH AS CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS), CARITAS, THE SALVATION ARMY, THE RED CROSS -- AND A HOST OF MISSIONARY, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIC GROUPS HAVE ALL PROVIDED ASSISTANCE.

U.S. ASSISTANCE - LONG-TERM:

WE INTEND TO ASSIST IN WHAT MUST CERTAINLY BE A DIFFICULT AND LONG-TERM REHABILITATION EFFORT. WE ARE ASKING CONGRESS FOR DOLS 25 MILLION TO PAY FOR OUR ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR MELOY SUGGESTS WE CONCENTRATE OUR EFFORTS IN THE RURAL AREAS, REBUILDING ROADS, SCHOOLS AND MARKET PLACES, AND IMPROVING HEALTH AND HYGIENE CONDITIONS. THE GOG AGREES.

AMBASSADOR MELOY SUGGESTS WE LEAVE THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE URBAN CENTERS TO THE MULTILATERAL AGENCIES, SUCH AS THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB), AND THE WORLD BANK (IBRD).

TALKING POINT:

-- WE PLEDGE TO CONTINUE ASSISTANCE TO HELP IN THE REBUILDING OF YOUR COUNTRY.
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 042545

BELIZE:

NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO BEGIN IN EARLY FEBRUARY, BUT HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE. EVEN THEN THERE IS ONLY A SLIM CHANCE THAT THEY WILL BE EVEN PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL. IF THEY FALTER WE CAN EXPECT BOTH THE UK AND THE GUATEMALANS TO TRY AGAIN TO GET US ACTIVELY INVOLVED TO PRESSURE THE OTHER TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. WE ARE TRYING TO REMAIN ON THE SIDELINES, AND CONFINE OURSELVES TO EXHORTING BOTH SIDES TO BE MODERATE AND KEEP TALKING. IF THE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, THE UK, OR BELIZE'S CARIBBEAN SUPPORTERS, PROBABLY WILL SEEK A STRONGER UNGA RESOLUTION NEXT FALL.

THE BRITISH HAD AGREED TO REDUCE THEIR GARRISON AS A GESTURE OF GOOD FAITH. THEY HAVE NOT YET DONE SO AND LAUGERUD HAS COMPLAINED ABOUT THIS TO MELOY. HE WILL REPEAT HIS COMPLAINT TO YOU. WE ASKED THE BRITISH ABOUT THIS AND THEY TELL US THAT A ROTATION OF UNITS IS NOW UNDERWAY THAT WILL END WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPANY (APPROXIMATELY 150 MEN) IN MID MARCH. LAUGERUD ALSO SAID THE UK HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF SHIPS PATROLLING OFF BELIZE FROM ONE TO TWO, BUT THE UK DENIES THIS. IF LAUGERUD ASKS, YOU MAY WANT TO PASS THESE TWO POINTS OF INFORMATION TO HIM.

TO BALANCE THE EQUATION, THE BRITISH HAVE ASKED THAT YOU MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE GOG TURNED DOWN A UK OFFER OF DISASTER ASSISTANCE. WE DECLINED. THEY ALSO PASSED ON AN INVITATION FROM BELIZEAN PRIME MINISTER PRICE THAT YOU STOP IN BELIZE WHILE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. WE DECLINED THAT ONE ALSO. MORE SERIOUSLY, HMG ASKED THAT YOU MAKE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON BELIZE DURING THE TRIP. THEY WANT A PUBLIC AFFIRMATION OF OUR NEUTRALITY. BECAUSE OF THE DISASTER THAT HAS BEFALLEN GUATEMALA, I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR YOU TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT BELIZE AT ALL. IF ASKED, I SUGGEST YOU RESPOND ALONG THE LINES OF THE TALKING POINT BELOW. WE HAVE ALREADY TOLD THE BRITISH THAT THIS
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 042545

WOULD BE OUR LIKELY RESPONSE.

TALKING POINTS:

I HOPE THE NEGOTIATIONS ON BELIZE, WHICH ARE DUE TO START SHORTLY, WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AND WILL LEAD TO A SOLUTION SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES.

-- THE UK TELLS US IT WILL BE REDUCING ITS GARRISON BY ONE COMPANY (150 MEN) IN MARCH. THEY HAVE ONLY ONE SHIP OFF BELIZE, NOT TWO.

DELTA/FLOMERCA SHIPPING DISPUTE (IF RAISED):

DELTA STEAMSHIP LINES OF NEW ORLEANS HAS BROUGHT A COMPLAINT BEFORE THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION AND THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE CHARGING THAT GUATEMALAN SHIPPING PRACTICES ARE DISCRIMINATORY AND ACT TO BAR U.S. CARRIERS FROM THE GUATEMALAN TRADE. BOTH FMC AND STR FOUND IN FAVOR OF DELTA AND SET FEBRUARY 14, 1976 AS A DEADLINE FOR THE GOG TO SATISFACTORILY REFORM ITS SHIPPING PRACTICES, OR SEE COUNTERVAILING PENALTIES LEVIED AGAINST GUATEMALAN SHIPPING. BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE, BOTH FMC AND STR HAVE AGREED TO SUSPEND ACTION FOR THE TIME BEING.

TALKING POINT (IF RAISED):

WE HAVE PREVAILED UPON THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE AND THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION TO POSTPONE ANY ACTION ON THE SHIPPING DISPUTE BECAUSE OF THE EARTHQUAKE. HOWEVER, THE ISSUE REMAINS PENDING AND WILL HAVE TO BE RESOLVED SOME TIME SOON.

ATTACHMENTS:

-

TAB 1 - PRESIDENT FORD'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT LAUGERUD

TAB 2 - SECRETARY KISSINGER'S MESSAGE TO MOLINA

TAB 3 - CABLE OF CONDOLENCE TO MOLINA

TAB 1:

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 08 STATE 042545

DEAR PRESIDENT LAUGERUD:

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES, I EXTEND TO YOU AND THE BRAVE PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY OVER THE LOSS OF LIFE AND SUFFERING CAUSED BY YESTERDAY'S DISASTROUS EARTHQUAKE. THE CLOSE

BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES MAKE YOUR LOSS
THE MORE DEEPLY FELT.

YOU MAY BE ASSURED OF OUR COMMITMENT TO COOPERATE WITH
YOU TO BRING PROMPT RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO THE AREAS
AFFECTED SO THAT HUMAN SUFFERING MAY BE EASED AND RECOVERY
FROM THE DEVASTATION SPEEDED.

SINCERELY,

GERALD R. FORD

TAB 2:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

I AM DEEPLY GRIEVED BY THE MAJOR DISASTER WHICH AFFLICTS
YOUR COUNTRY. THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED
STATES ARE PROFOUNDLY SADDENED BY THE LOSS OF LIFE AND
EXTENSIVE PERSONAL INJURIES SUFFERED BY THE GUATEMALAN
PEOPLE AND ARE RESPONDING TO YOUR GOVERNMENT'S REQUEST FOR
MEDICAL AND OTHER ASSISTANCE TO MEET THIS EMERGENCY.
PLEASE BE ASSURED OF OUR INTEREST IN CONTINUED ASSISTANCE
TO HELP YOUR GOVERNMENT IN THIS MOMENT OF NEED.

SINCERELY,

HENRY A. KISSINGER

TAB 3:

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

AMBASSADOR MELOY HAS ADVISED ME OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 09 STATE 042545

OF YOUR FATHER FEBRUARY 13. THIS PERSONAL LOSS MUST

BE EVEN MORE TRAGIC FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AT A
TIME WHEN YOUR COUNTRY HAS BEEN BESET BY SO MAJOR
A CATASTROPHE. PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE CONDOLENCES.

SINCERELY,

HENRY A. KISSINGER. INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE INGERSOL

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 15 SEP 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE042545
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN:MJPLATT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D760069-0728
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197602103/baaaeofd.tel
Line Count: 376
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH
TAGS: OVIP, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: LONDON
BELIZE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006